The Order of Service for Home Worship



ALL SAINTS DAY

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE KINGDOM

Hymn 1 Blessed are the pure in heart.

1. **Blessed are the pure in heart,**
   For they shall see our God;
   The secret of the Lord is theirs,
   Their soul is Christ's abode.

2. **The Lord who left the heavens**
   Our life and peace to bring,
   To dwell in lowliness with us,
   Our pattern and our King.

3. **Still to the lowly soul**
   He doth himself impart,
   And for his dwelling and his throne
   Chooseth the poor in heart.

4. **Lord, we thy presence seek;**
   May ours this blessing be:
   Give us a pure and lowly heart,
   A temple meet for thee.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace is our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you show us the way to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you have given us knowledge of your truth. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd leading us into life. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.

Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Revelation. **7: 9-17**

After this I looked, and there were a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour, and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes

and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm. 34: 1-10
Response: O taste and see that the Lord is good.
I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad. **(R)**

O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
And delivered me form all my fears. **(R)**

Look to him, and be radiant;
So your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
And was saved from every trouble. **(R)**

The angel of the Lord encamps
Around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in him. **(R)**

O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
For those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
But those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. **(R)**

A reading from the first letter of John. 3: 1-3
See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Blessed are the pure in heart," says the Lord, "For they shall see God".
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. 5. 1-12
Glory to you, O Lord.
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation: *Today we celebrate All Saints Day, the first Sunday of the Kingdom season, the last season of the Churches year. Over the next four weeks we celebrate the Kingship of Christ over creation and over our own lives. We give thanks that he has called us to live as members of his family the Communion of Saints, the family of God in heaven and on earth united in one great fellowship. Today we give thanks to God for those saints who have gone before us, those men and women who lived the lives of faithful disciples, who helped to build the Church on earth and who have now received the crown of life and who continue to pray for us in heaven. Some saints lived such illustrious lives that they are remembered with their own day throughout the year. Today we remember also those saints, countless men and women whose names are known only to God. We all know such saints, priests, Sunday School teachers, family members, friends, neighbours and strangers who have revealed the love of God to us in the kindnesses they have shown to us. People who have helped encourage us along the road of faith. People in whose company we find ourselves drawing closer to God. These are the saints we honour today. All of these men and*

women have helped to reveal the love of God to a waiting world. These are the poor, the meek, the pure in heart, those who mourn and those who hunger for God of whom Jesus is speaking in our Gospel reading today. And he calls us, in our time, to play our part as full members of the Communion of Saints and to follow the example of those holy men and women who have gone before us. Like them we are to encourage the those characteristics of God's people, revealed to us by Jesus, to grow within us. By acknowledging the poverty of our spirit, by searching for God with humility, by promoting peace and reconciliation among family, friends and neighbours, Jesus promises we shall see God. By placing our trust and faith in him we will understand the truth of his loves for us, in being faithful and in placing our faith and trust in Jesus, we will in our time take our place with him and all the saints in the glory of heaven forever. The Kingdom of Heaven will be ours.

Intercessions:
In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own parish; that the Church may follow the example of all the saints in proclaiming the risen Lord.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; that the leaders of the world, led by the Holy Spirit, may be united in purpose in securing a sustainable, just and peaceful future for all your people.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; may we be always faithful to our baptismal promises, that we may grow in righteousness..
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our parish intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace:
Jesus said, "Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.
And also with you.

Let us pray:
God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith, hope and love and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn 2 Jerusalem the Golden.

1. **Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest,**
   Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice opprest.
   I know not, O I know not, what social joys are there,
   What radiancy of glory, what light beyond compare.

2. **They stand, those halls of Sion, conjubilant with song,**
   And bright with many an angel, and all the martyr throng;
   The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene,
   The pastures of the blessed are decked in glorious sheen.

3. **There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,**
   The song of them that triumph, the shout of them that feast;
   And they who, with their Leader, have conquered in the fight,
   For ever and for ever are clad in robes of white.

4. **O sweet and blessed country, shall I ever see thy face?**
   O sweet and blessed country, shall I ever win thy grace?
   Exult, O dust and ashes! The Lord shall be thy part:
   His only, his for ever, Thou shalt be, and thou art!

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